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discussions of our city marketing arrangements, they can hardly be put aside so cavalierly as is done on p. 4. Likewise, sugar and rice are ignored, and the compressing of the discussion of fruit marketing into seventeen and one-half pages causes practically all the significant details to be merged into a few meaningless generalities.

The chapters which include the detailed description of the methods of handling the staple crops are undoubtedly the best part of the book, being carefully compiled and illustrated by many interesting documents and forms. There are bibliographies following the various chapters, and the Cotton Futures act is printed as an appendix.

Had the book been developed symmetrically upon the general plan of the twelve headings mentioned in the first chapter (restricted in certain directions) for all the important lines of agricultural products of the United States, the result would have been a reference book on agricultural commerce invaluable both for courses in commerce and for those in agricultural economics. Apparently the author has felt constrained to give his work the form of a textbook, to publish it before the larger task could be accomplished, and to attempt to cover certain problems of price which today command public interest. To intimate that there was a larger ideal to which he might have addressed himself is by no means to deny the great practical usefulness of the book as it stands, in the field for which it is designed. Likewise, Dr. Huebner deserves the special credit accorded to those who blaze new trails.

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*Infant Mortality.* By HUGH T. ASHBY. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (New York: Putnam), 1915. 8vo, pp. x+230. \$3.25.

The first chapter of this book consists of a general introduction to the subject. Chapter ii deals with the distribution of infant mortality in England and Wales (no comparison being made with other countries), chaps. iii to ix with the causes of infant mortality, and the remainder of the book with the "ways in which infant mortality can be lowered." The purpose of the book "is to try throughout the country to awaken more interest in the prevention of infant mortality" (p. vi).

In the author's judgment "the first and greatest predisposing factor in infant mortality . . . its root cause," is poverty. "Poverty leads

to many of the other causes, including the employment of women too near to the period of pregnancy and childbirth. The chief danger from alcoholism and intemperance he thinks is "not that the mother gets intoxicated" but that the waste of income causes poverty. After poverty, the most important factor "in keeping up the infant mortality rate is ignorance among the poor" and lack of intelligent care of children on the part of their mothers. "Poverty, together with ignorance, more than anything else dominates the situation."

His conclusion as to the influence of the employment of mothers in gainful occupations is in agreement with that arrived at by Robertson after an inductive study of this question in two wards of Birmingham, England. He says:

Work itself in the mill or factory, as long as it is not too strenuous, does not harm the mother if she stays away from her work for some weeks before and after child birth. After birth, however, the seriousness for the child is plain; the mother, being employed, is prevented from breast-feeding her child, and this is perhaps the most weighty argument against the employment of women [p. 213].

But there is another argument against their employment, resulting from the fact that "girls and women who have been employed all their lives in factories and mills are for the most part ignorant of household management." He thinks that legislation preventing the employment of married women altogether is undesirable.

If there is great poverty at home it is surely better for the mother to go to work in order that the whole family may live in more comfort, and it is of no use for the mother to stay at home in these circumstances, for if there is insufficient food the mother cannot breast-feed her baby and it has to be weaned whether she is at home or at work.

He recommends legislation against the employment of married women in factories for a longer time both before and after childbirth than is now required (four weeks in England).

Of all the methods of reducing infant mortality which are in use in England the work of "health visitors who go and visit the poor *in their own homes*" and advise them about the care and feeding of their babies has, in the author's opinion, been the most effective. This work is lacking, however, in that it does not include what is called in this country "prenatal work with expectant mothers." Next in order of importance after health visiting comes the work of the infant consultations and

schools for mothers (infant welfare centers) where the mothers come to have their babies weighed, to receive advice as to their feeding and care, to attend lectures, classes, etc. Infant milk depots have been developed in France as one of the most important methods of preventing infant mortality, but they have not been successful in England, largely because of the expense involved. The author thinks that the problem of pure milk for infants is to be solved by educating the mothers to buy only the best milk procurable and by teaching them to modify it in their own homes. On the other hand, he thinks that "one of the best and most useful features of the work of infant consultations is the provision of good, cheap dinners for expectant and nursing mothers"—an important method of at least partly shielding the mother and baby from the effects of poverty.

This discussion of "the ways by which infant mortality may be lowered" is by far the best part of the book. It constitutes the best brief discussion of this phase of the subject that the reviewer is acquainted with. The discussion of the causes of infant mortality is unfortunately not so good. It is based not so much on an inductive investigation or on an examination of the available statistics as on the author's work as visiting physician to the Manchester Children's Hospital, the Manchester Board of Poor Law Guardians, and the Salford School for Mothers. Such statistics as are quoted appear to be used to support conclusions drawn from observation and experience and not as data upon which the conclusions are based. This part of the book is also not well written. It is evidently not the work of a scientist trained in the methods of social research.

The book also suffers from the lack of an analysis of the decline of infant mortality in recent years. The writer touches upon this phase of the question on pp. 2, 191, and in one or two other places, but nowhere is the subject adequately treated—an omission which is rather surprising, since the book deals primarily with the ways of lowering or producing a decline in the infant mortality rate.

HENRY H. HIBBS, JR.

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*The Rise of Rail Power in War and Conquest.* By EDWIN A. PRATT.

London: P. S. King & Son, Ltd., 1915. 8vo, pp. xii+405.  
7s. 6d.

Mr. Pratt has here turned his facile pen to a subject of great interest at this time, though, as the title indicates, it does not directly treat of